ATLAS

BIBLE TALES

DEC.

BIBLE TALES FOR YOUNG FOLK

10¢

THIS IS PSALM CXXI THAT TELLS OF THE FAITH OF THE WANDERER WHO KNOWS THAT, EVEN THOUGH DANGER CAN BE NEARBY, THE LORD WATCHES OVER HIM:

I will lift up mine eyes

UNTO THE HILLS, FROM WHERE COMES MY HELP?

MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

HE WILL NOT LET YOUR FOOT BE MOVED: HE THAT WATCHES OVER YOU WILL NOT SLEEP.

BEHOLD, HE THAT GUARDS ISRAEL SHALL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP.

THE LORD IS YOUR KEEPER: THE LORD IS YOUR SHADE ON YOUR RIGHT HAND.

THE SUN SHALL NOT SMITE YOU BY DAY, NOR THE MOON BY NIGHT.

THE LORD SHALL SAVE YOU FROM ALL EVIL: HE SHALL SAVE YOUR SOUL.

THE LORD SHALL WATCH OVER YOUR GOING OUT AND YOUR COMING IN FROM THIS TIME FORTH, AND EVEN FOR EVERMORE.

D 338 (B)

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

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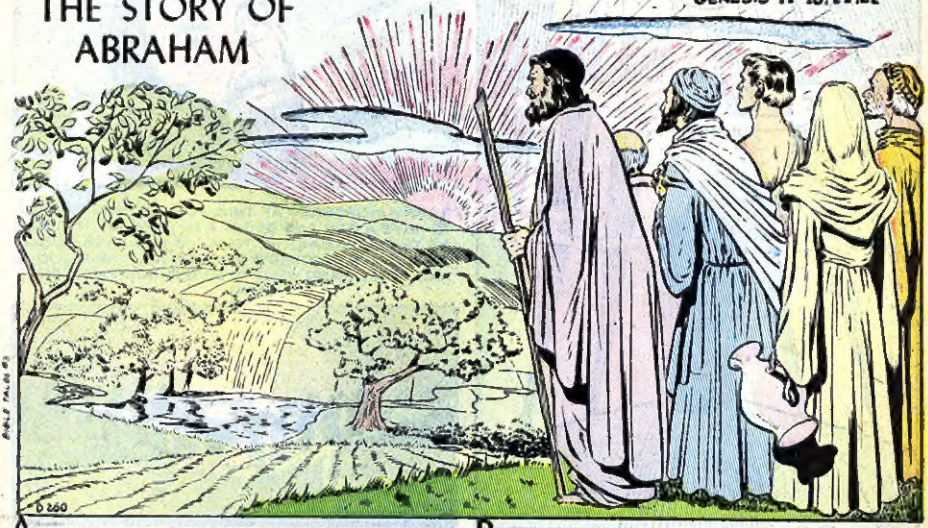
The Father of Nations

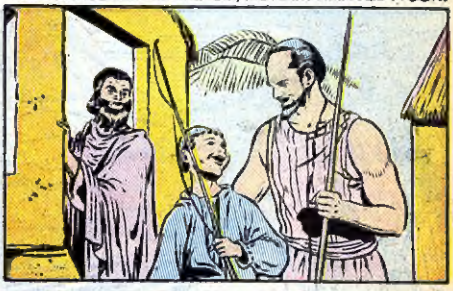
THE STORY OF ABRAHAM

GENESIS 11-18, 21, 22

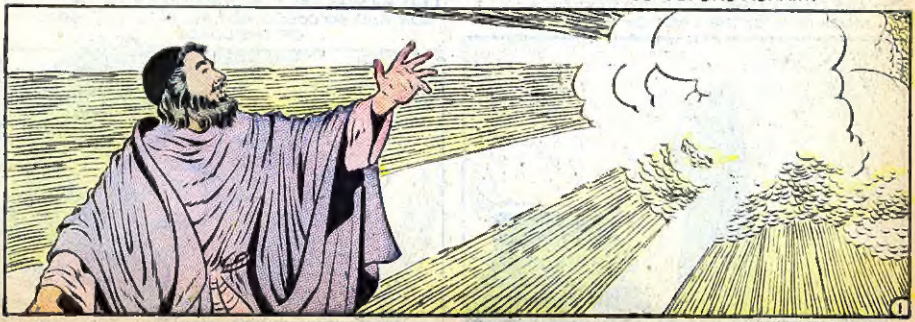


ABRAM WAS THE SON OF TERAH, AND HE LIVED IN HARAN. HE WAS A GOOD AND HOLY MAN AND HE LOVED GOD.

BUT HE HAD ONE GREAT SORROW. HE WAS GROWING OLD AND HAD NO SON TO MAKE HIS OLD AGE HAPPY. ABOVE ALL THINGS, ABRAM WANTED A SON.



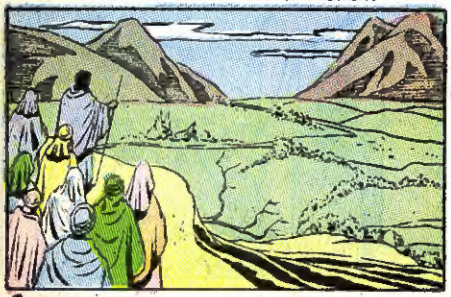
BUT THE LORD HAD OTHER THINGS FOR HIM AND ONE DAY HE APPEARED BEFORE ABRAM.



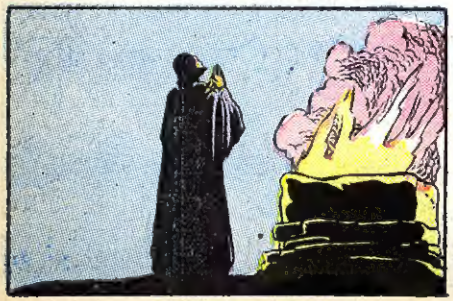
ILLUSTRATED BY SID GREENE

And God said: "Leave your land and your kinfolk and your father's house, and go to a land that I shall show to you!"

They traveled through the land of Canaan and into the plains of Moreh.



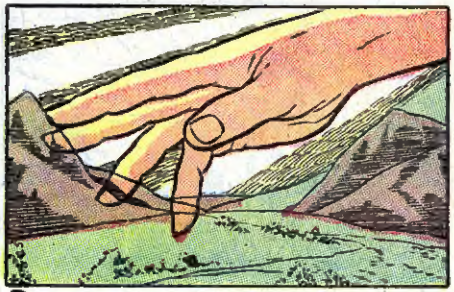
So Abram built an altar to God on a mountain to the east of Bethel.



"I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great. I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you, and through you I shall bless the families of the earth."

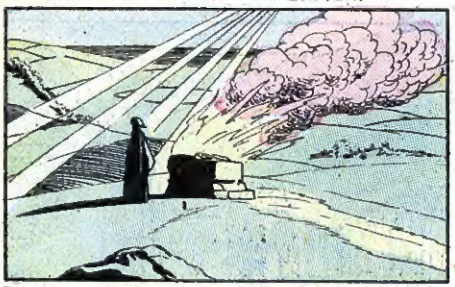
Abram wondered at this, for he was too old to have a son and begin a nation, but he did as the Lord said. He took his old wife Sarah, and Lot, his brother's son, and all their goods and people and went to search for this new land.

And the Lord said: "I shall give this land to your people."

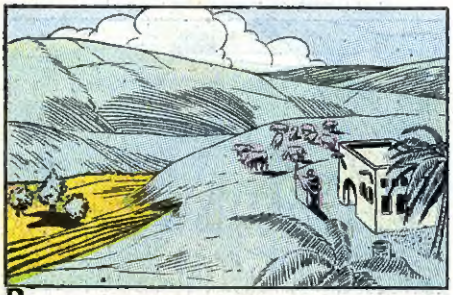


But he was still sad because he had no son and so could not fulfill the word of the Lord.

God said: "Look north and south, look east and west. All that you see I give to you and your children's children forever!"

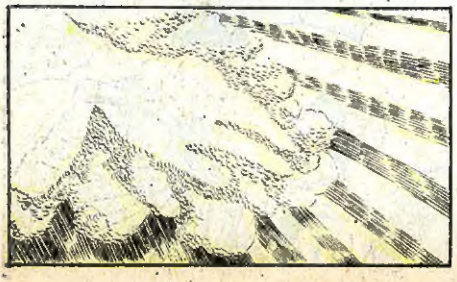


Days passed and years passed. Abram grew rich in cattle and gold and silver.



But Abram felt that he had failed the Lord, for he had no son to found a nation of the people of God.

"Your name shall be Abraham," said God. "For I have made you a father of many nations. You shall have a son and you shall call him Isaac!"



But again Abram wondered at the words of the Lord. The days were passing and still he had no son.

His people prospered and were happy in the new land.

He was alone when a great light appeared before him. "Abram!" cried the voice of God. "I am here, Lord," Abram replied.

Abraham bowed low, but he smiled to himself: "How can a man a hundred years old have a son?" he said.

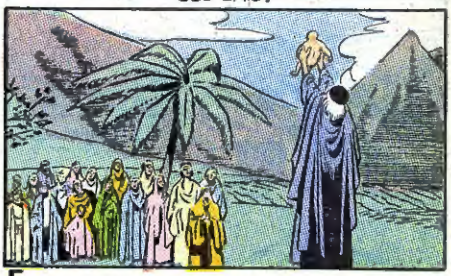
But the word of the Lord was good, and Sarah bore a son to Abraham.

Abraham was overjoyed and happy with his son Isaac. Now all that the Lord had promised would come true.

But it came to pass that God wanted to test Abraham, and he said: "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and offer him as a burnt offering."

Isaac said: "Father, we have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

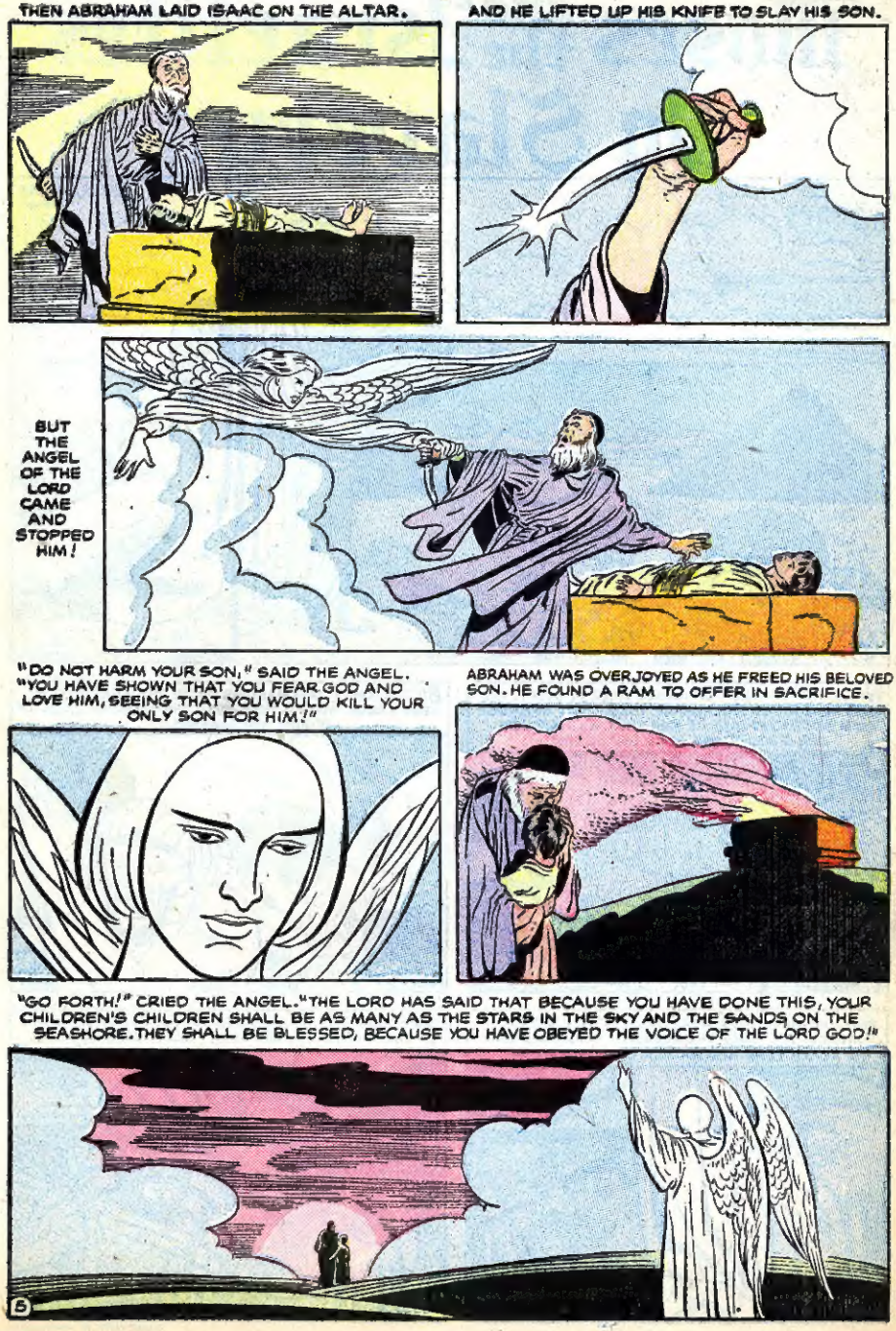
"Behold!" cried Abraham to his people. "Behold, a son given to me in my old age. I shall be a father of great nations, as God said!"



For, through Isaac, there would come the chosen people of God. Abraham rejoiced in all this as the years went by.

Not once did Abraham question the command of God. He took his son and, carrying the wood for the fire, went up to a mountain.

And Abraham, weeping, said: "My son, God will provide a lamb."


THEN ABRAHAM LAID ISAAC ON THE ALTAR.
AND HE LIFTED UP HIS KNIFE TO SLAY HIS SON.
BUT THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME AND STOPPED HIM!
"DO NOT HARM YOUR SON," SAID THE ANGEL. "YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT YOU FEAR GOD AND LOVE HIM, SEEING THAT YOU WOULD KILL YOUR ONLY SON FOR HIM!"
ABRAHAM WAS OVERJOYED AS HE FREED HIS BELOVED SON. HE FOUND A RAM TO OFFER IN SACRIFICE.
"GO FORTH!" CRIED THE ANGEL. "THE LORD HAS SAID THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE THIS, YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN SHALL BE AS MANY AS THE STARS IN THE SKY AND THE SANDS ON THE SEASHORE. THEY SHALL BE BLESSED, BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED THE VOICE OF THE LORD GOD!"
5

Moses and the Israelites In Slavery

WHILE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL LIVED IN EGYPT, THE NEW KING HATED AND FEARED THEM. "LET US HANDLE THEM SO THAT IN CASE OF WAR THEY WILL NOT JOIN OUR ENEMIES AND FIGHT US," HE SAID.

SO THE KING'S TASKMASTERS DROVE THE ISRAELITES TO HARD LABOR, MAKING THEM BUILD THE TREASURE CITIES OF PITHOM AND RAAMSES.

BUT THE MORE THEY WERE TREATED AS SLAVES IN BONDAGE, THE MORE THE HEBREWS PROSPERED AND THE KING'S FEAR AND HATRED GREW STRONGER.

SO HE ORDERED HIS SOLDIERS TO KILL EVERY SON BORN OF THE ISRAELITES, BUT TO LET EVERY DAUGHTER LIVE.

ILLUSTRATED BY JOE SINNOTT

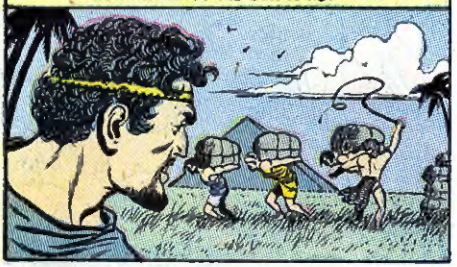
A WOMAN OF THE HOUSE OF LEVI HAD A SON AND SHE HID HIM FROM THE BLADES OF THE EXECUTIONERS FOR THREE MONTHS.

BUT WHEN SHE COULD HIDE HIM NO LONGER, SHE MADE AN ARC OF BULRUSHES AND HID THE CHILD IN IT, IN THE PLANTS BY THE BANK OF THE RIVER.

THERE THE CHILD WAS FOUND BY THE KING'S DAUGHTER. "BECAUSE I DREW HIM OUT OF THE WATER, I WILL CALL HIM MOSES," SHE SAID.

SHE KNEW HE WAS ONE OF THE HEBREWS' CHILDREN, SO SHE CALLED ONE OF THEIR WOMEN TO TEND MOSES, AND THE WOMAN SHE CALLED WAS MOSES' MOTHER.

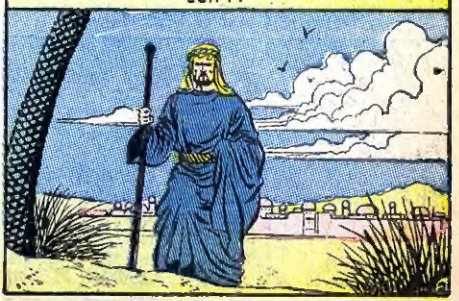
MOSES GREW INTO MANHOOD AS THE SON OF THE KING'S DAUGHTER, BELOVED BY HER. ONE DAY HE WAS LOOKING OUT INTO THE FIELDS AND SAW HOW THE HEBREWS WERE MISTREATED BY THE EGYPTIANS.



ONE OF THE SOLDIERS WAS BEATING A HEBREW, AND MOSES BECAME ENRAGED AND KILLED THE EGYPTIAN.

SO NOW HE HAD TO FLY FROM THE WRATH OF THE KING WHOSE SOLDIERS LOOKED FOR HIM TO SLAY HIM.

AND MOSES BECAME AN EXILE FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT.



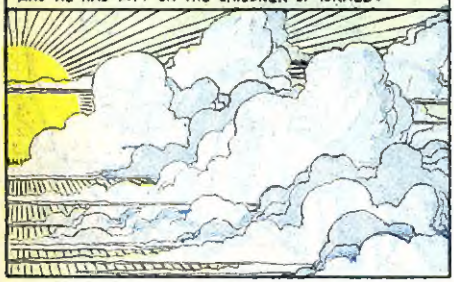
He fled to the land of Midian, where he befriended the priest of the land and married his daughter Zipporah.

And when Zipporah bore a son to Moses, Moses said: "I shall name him Gershom, for I have been a stranger in a strange land."

Meanwhile, the cruel Egyptian king died, but the children of Israel still suffered under the yoke of slavery.

They cried up to God, asking him if he had forgotten his people.

And God heard their cry and remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, and he had pity on the children of Israel.

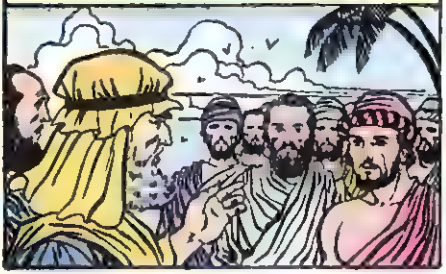


Moses was tending the sheep in the fields, when a bush suddenly burst into flame before him.

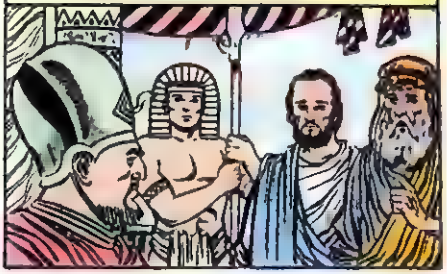
The voice of the Lord spoke, saying: "You shall bring forth my people out of Egypt and you shall take them into a land of milk and honey."

And God made the rod of Moses a magic staff and said: "Return to Egypt. There you shall meet Aaron, who shall be your spokesman."

So Moses returned to Egypt and met Aaron. They gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel and told them of God's promise.

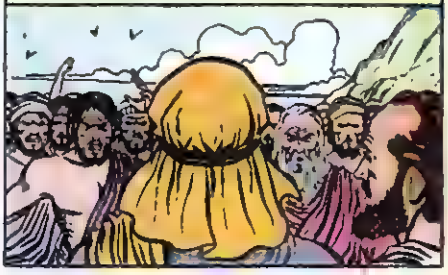


Moses and Aaron then went to Pharaoh and said: "The Lord God has said: 'Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'"



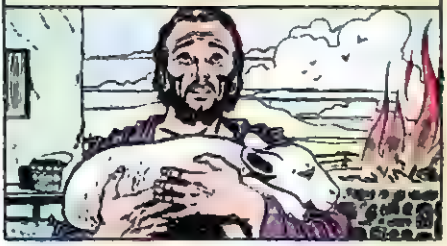
But Pharaoh refused, setting his taskmasters to drive the slaves even harder.

And the Hebrews said that Moses had angered Pharaoh and brought even more misery to them. "God has forgotten his people," they cried.



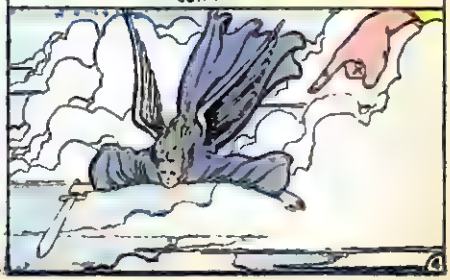
Then God, through Moses, sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. "Let my people go," cried Moses, but still Pharaoh refused.

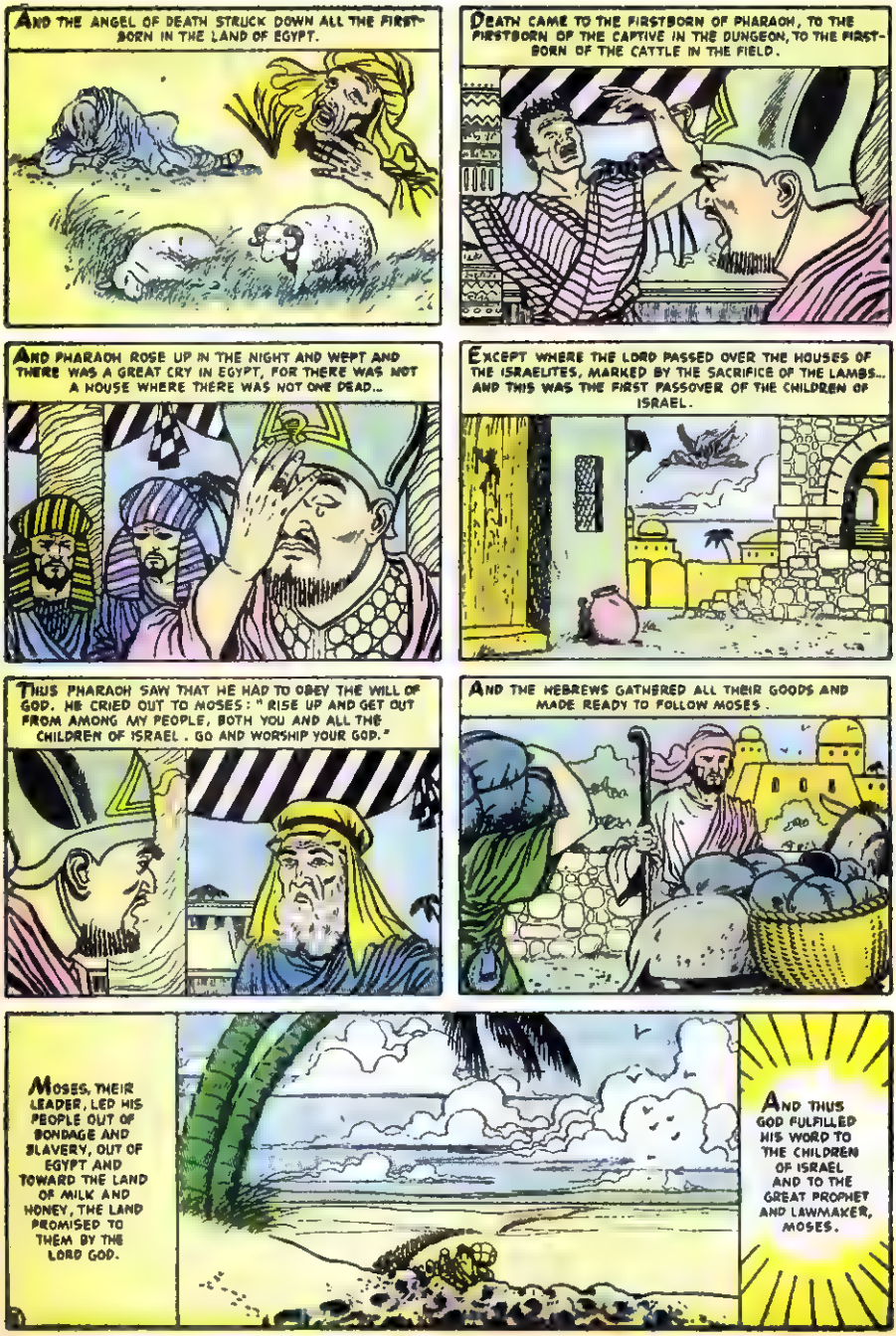
So God decided to bring even a more terrible plague upon the Egyptians, but he wanted to save the children of Israel. Moses told the Hebrews to make a sacrifice to God... a lamb for each house.



This they did and they dipped herbs into the blood and marked their door posts with it.

And it came to pass that at midnight the Lord sent out his angel of death over the land of Egypt.




And the angel of death struck down all the first-born in the land of Egypt.
Death came to the firstborn of Pharaoh, to the firstborn of the captive in the dungeon, to the first-born of the cattle in the field.
And Pharaoh rose up in the night and wept and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead...
Except where the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites, marked by the sacrifice of the lambs... and this was the first passover of the children of Israel.
Thus Pharaoh saw that he had to obey the will of God. He cried out to Moses: "Rise up and get out from among my people, both you and all the children of Israel. Go and worship your God."
And the Hebrews gathered all their goods and made ready to follow Moses.
Moses, their leader, led his people out of bondage and slavery, out of Egypt and toward the land of milk and honey, the land promised to them by the Lord God.
And thus God fulfilled his word to the children of Israel and to the great prophet and lawmaker, Moses.

FLEEING FROM THE WRATH OF ESAU, JACOB SLEPT OUT OF DOORS, HIS HEAD RESTING ON A STONE AS A PILLOW. AND IN A DREAM HE SAW THE VISION OF:

JACOB'S LADDER

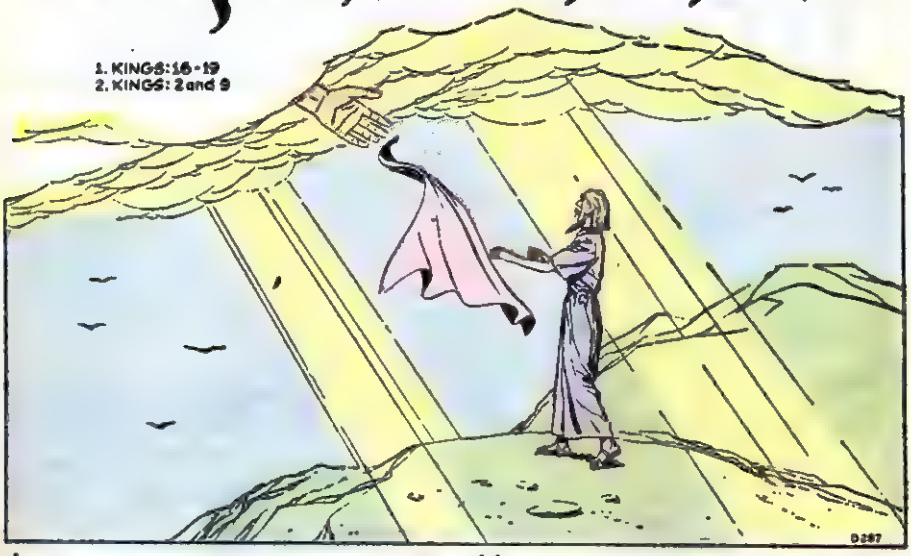
GENESIS 27, 42, 28, 10-19

ATOP THE HEAVENLY STAIRWAY WAS THE FIGURE OF GOD, SAYING: "I AM THE LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM. THE LAND ON WHICH YOU LIE I WILL GIVE TO YOU AND TO YOUR CHILDREN. AND THEY SHALL SPREAD FROM THE WEST TO THE EAST, TO THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH, AND IN YOU AND THEM SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED."

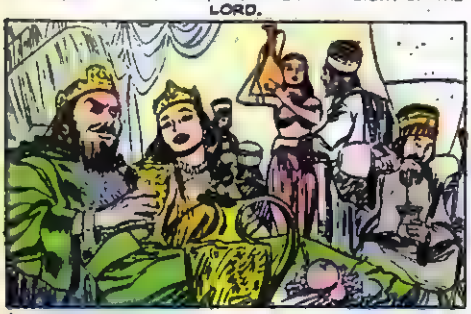
AND WHEN JACOB AWOKE, HE CALLED THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS BETHEL, "THE HOUSE OF GOD."

Elijah's Mantle

1. KINGS: 16-19
2. KINGS: 2 and 9

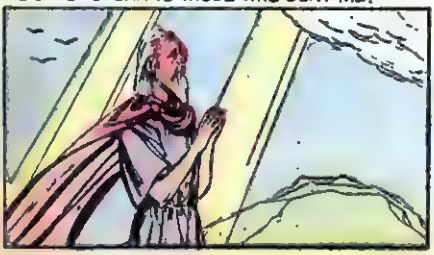


AHAB, KING OF ISRAEL, WAS EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD.



HE AND HIS WIFE JEZEBEL WORSHIPED BAAL, THE FALSE GOD. HE SET UP AN ALTAR IN A TEMPLE FOR BAAL, AND FORGOT THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD.

AND THE LORD GOD APPEARED BEFORE ELIJAH AND BLESSED HIS MANTLE AND BLESSED HIM WHO WORE IT. "THROUGH YOU," SAID THE LORD, "I SHALL SPEAK TO THOSE WHO DENY ME!"

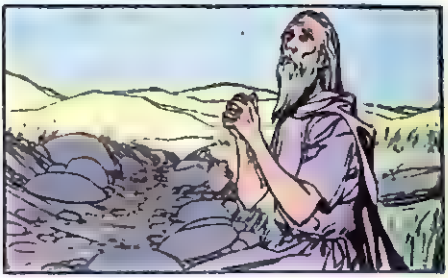


OBEYING THE COMMAND OF GOD, ELIJAH WENT TO AHAB AND SAID: "AS THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL LIVES, THERE SHALL NOT BE RAIN FOR THREE YEARS, UNLESS I ORDER IT!" AHAB AND JEZEBEL LAUGHED, AS THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE LORD GOD JEHOVAH.

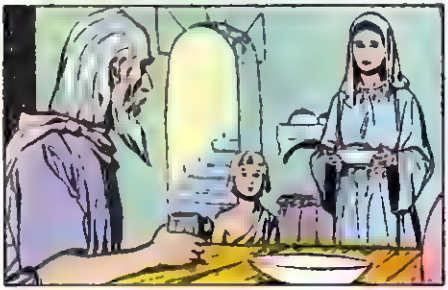
ILLUSTRATED BY FRED KIDD

ELIJAH LEFT THE COURT AND WENT TO LIVE IN THE FIELDS BESIDE A BROOK. THE LORD SENT RAVENS TO FEED HIS PROPHET.

HE DRANK FROM THE WATERS OF THE BROOK, BUT THAT SOON DRIED UP, FOR THERE WAS NO RAIN! SO THE LORD SENT HIM TO ZAREPHATH WHERE THERE LIVED A WIDOW WHO WOULD FEED HIM.

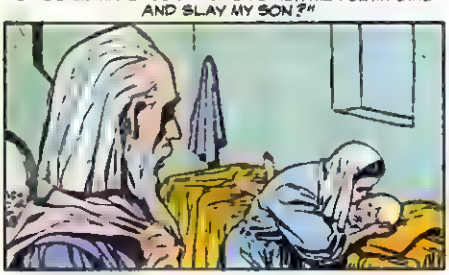


SHE GAVE ELIJAH THE LAST OF A BARREL OF MEAL FOR HIM TO EAT, DENYING HERSELF FOOD.



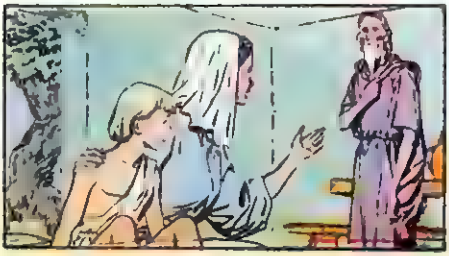
AND BECAUSE SHE DID THIS, THE BARREL WAS NEVER EMPTY OF MEAL. SHE AND HER SON AND ELIJAH ALWAYS HAD ENOUGH FOOD AND DRINK, FOR THE LORD PROVIDED FOR THE WEARER OF HIS MANTLE.

IT CAME TO PASS THAT THE WIDOW'S SON BECAME ILL AND WAS DYING. "WHY IS THIS, O MAN OF GOD?" SHE CRIED TO ELIJAH. "HAVE YOU COME TO PUNISH ME FOR MY SINS AND SLAY MY SON?"

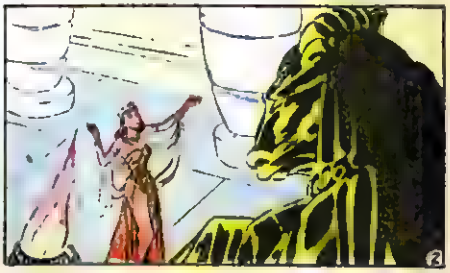


ELIJAH PRAYED TO THE LORD: "O LORD, MY GOD, I PRAY YOU... ***LET THIS CHILD LIVE!***"

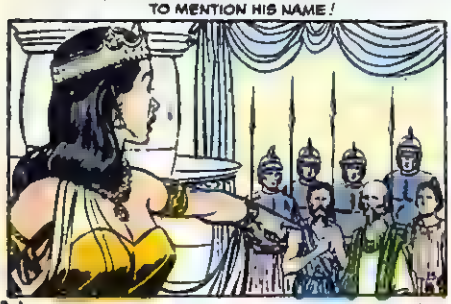
AND THE BREATH OF LIFE RETURNED TO THE BOY. "NOW I KNOW YOU ARE A MAN OF GOD," SAID THE HAPPY MOTHER, "AND I KNOW THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD IN YOUR MOUTH IS THE TRUTH!"



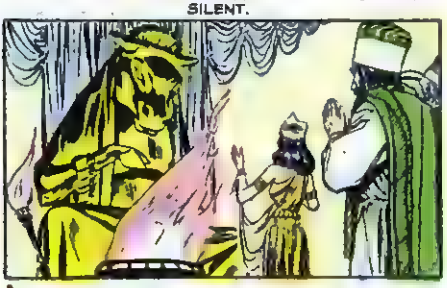
BUT THERE WAS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF WOMAN IN THE PALACE OF THE KING. ***JEZEBEL!*** SHE HATED THE LORD AND ORDERED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP ONLY BAAL.



THE EVIL QUEEN ORDERED THE EXECUTION OF THE PROPHETS OF THE LORD TO MAKE SURE THERE WOULD BE NONE LEFT TO MENTION HIS NAME!



"YOU ARE THE TRUE GOD!" CRIED JEZEBEL AND THE PRIESTS OF BAAL. "BRING DOWN THE RAINS FOR US WHO WORSHIP YOU!" BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF RAIN AND BAAL WAS SILENT.



NOW AHAB AND OBADIAH WENT OUT TO THE FIELDS TO LOOK FOR GRASS WITH WHICH TO FEED THE ANIMALS OF THE LAND.

AND THERE THEY SAW ELIJAH. "YOU ARE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THIS TROUBLE UPON ISRAEL!" CRIED AHAB.

"NOT I," REPLIED ELIJAH "YOU AND THOSE OF YOUR HOUSE HAVE BROUGHT THIS TROUBLE. YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE LORD AND FOLLOWED BAAL. I WILL PROVE TO YOU WHICH IS THE TRUE GOD... JEHOVAH OR BAAL!"

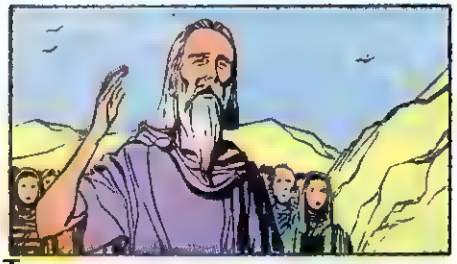
SO ELIJAH TOLD AHAB TO BRING THE ISRAELITES TO MOUNT CARMEL. "AND HAVE THE FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY PRIESTS WHO FEED AT THE TABLE OF JEZEBEL COME TOO," HE SAID.

THEN, AT MOUNT CARMEL, ELIJAH SAID TO THE ISRAELITES: "I, THE PROPHET OF THE LORD, AM ALONE; BUT THERE ARE FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY PRIESTS OF BAAL HERE. I WILL PROVE TO YOU WHICH IS THE TRUE GOD."

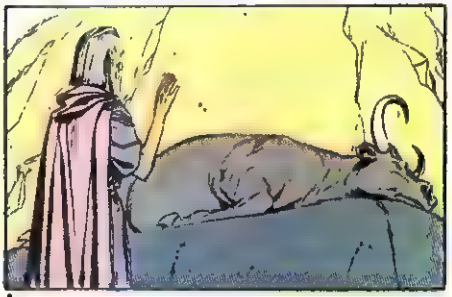
"DO SO," CRIED THE PEOPLE AND WE WILL FOLLOW THE GOD WHO PROVES HIMSELF!" JEZEBEL WATCHED ELIJAH WITH HATRED BURNING IN HER EYES.

"HERE ARE TWO BULLOCKS, PLACED ON THE ALTARS," SAID ELIJAH. "THERE IS NO FIRE ON THEM. YOU PRIESTS OF BAAL, CALL UPON YOUR GOD, AND I WILL CALL UPON MINE. AND THE GOD THAT ANSWERS BY FIRE FOR THE ALTAR SHALL BE THE TRUE GOD."

BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER. "CRY LOUDER," URGED ELIJAH. "MAYBE YOUR GOD IS BUSY TALKING, OR IS ON A JOURNEY, OR PERHAPS HE SLEEPS AND MUST BE AWAKENED. LOUDER!".

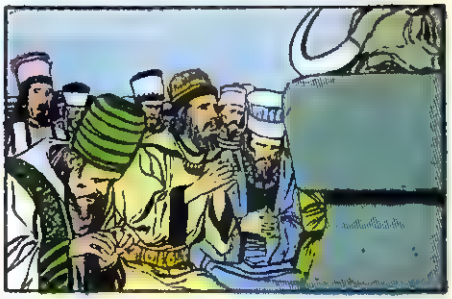


THEN, WHEN NIGHT CAME, ELIJAH STOOD BEFORE HIS ALTAR.

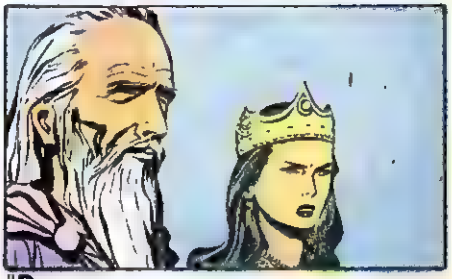


IT WAS DONE AS HE ORDERED. JEZEBEL SMILED TO HERSELF, FOR NOW THE FIRES CERTAINLY WOULD NOT COME.

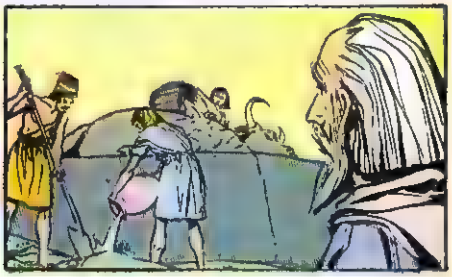
THE PRIESTS OF BAAL PRAYED BEFORE THEIR ALTAR CALLING TO THEIR GOD, CRYING: "O BAAL, HEAR US!"



AND THE PRIESTS CRIED OUT EVEN LOUDER. BUT STILL THEIR GOD DID NOT REPLY. JEZEBEL WATCHED, FURY IN HER SOUL FOR THE PROPHET ELIJAH.



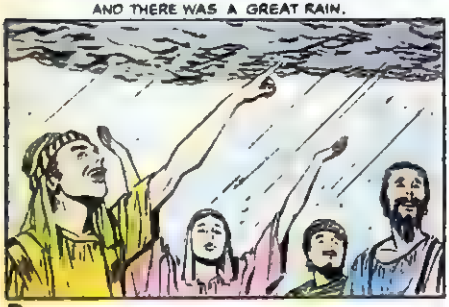
"POUR WATER OVER THE BULLOCK AND THE ALTAR!" HE COMMANDED. "DIG TRENCHES AROUND THE ALTAR, AND FILL THEM TOO WITH WATER!"



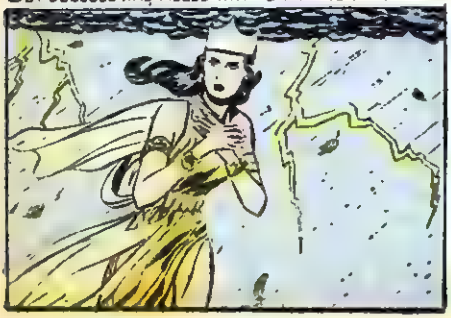
AND ELIJAH PRAYED: "LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT YOU ARE THE TRUE AND ONLY GOD AND THAT I AM YOUR SERVANT AND THAT I HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS AT YOUR COMMAND! HEAR ME, O LORD!"

And the fire of the Lord God Jehovah came down and consumed the sacrifice on the altar, and the wood and stones and the dust and all the water in the trenches.

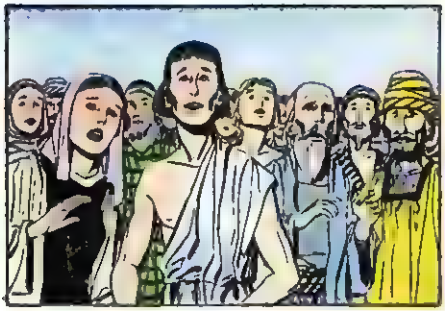
Then the heavens were black with clouds and wind and there was a great rain.



But Jezebel was filled with fury at Elijah.

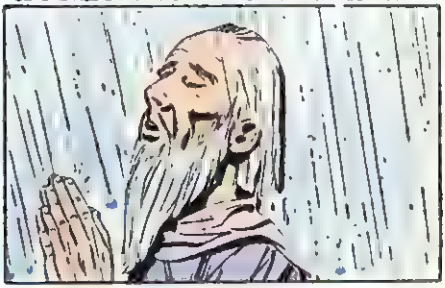


The people saw this and cried: "He is the true God!"



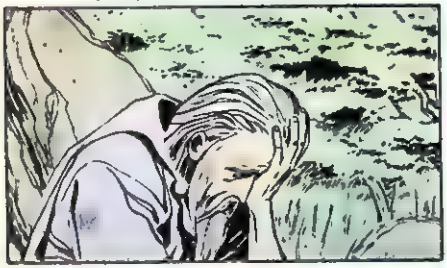
And they fell upon the priests of the false god Baal and killed them.

"Thank you, O Lord!" cried Elijah, "you have proved before all of Israel that you are the true God."



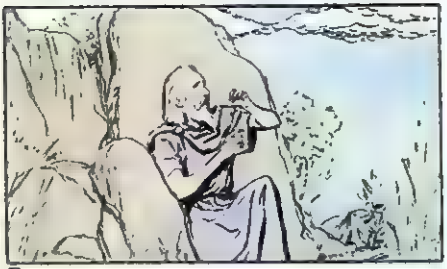
She sent word to him that she would have him killed, so Elijah fled, wrapped in the mantle of God.

He ran into the wilderness and rested. Elijah was tired of life and the struggle. "It is enough!" he cried, "Now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers!"



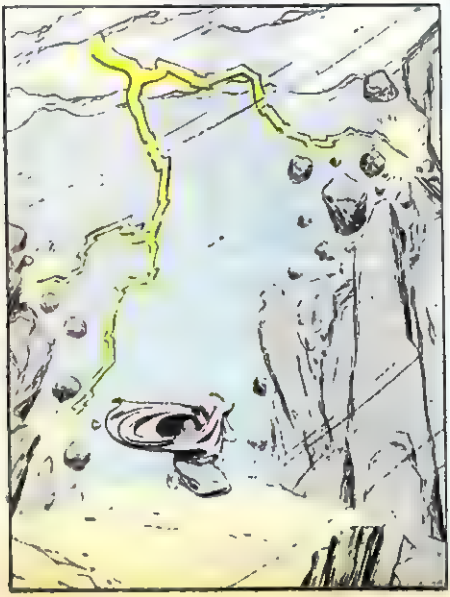
But the angel of the Lord came with food for Elijah and kept him alive, for the time had not yet come to pass on Elijah's mantle to someone else.

Then the voice of God said: "Why did you hide here, Elijah?" and Elijah answered: "I am the only one left of your prophets and my enemies want to kill me."

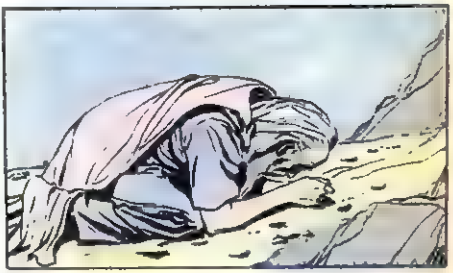


And the Lord said: "Go and stand upon the mount and I shall pass by you!"

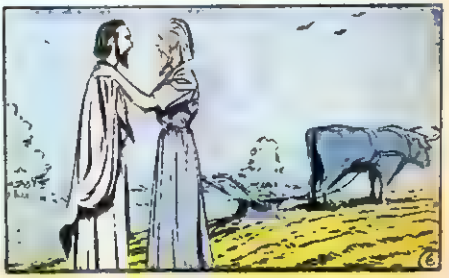
Behold, a great wind broke the rocks in pieces, and then an earthquake and a fire. Elijah covered his face with his mantle, but the Lord was not in any of these.



Then there came a still, small voice, saying: "I have yet seven thousand in Israel who are faithful to me. Go and look for Elisha among them."

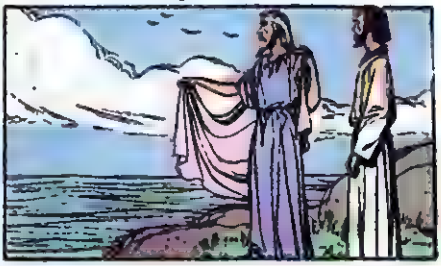


So Elijah left the mountain and found Elisha plowing in the fields and cast his mantle over him.

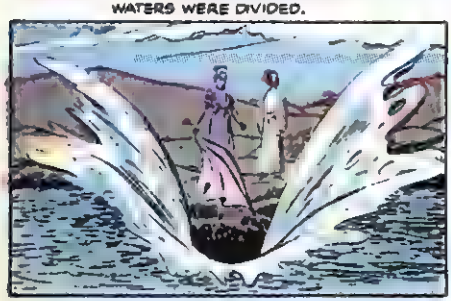


ELISHA FOLLOWED ELIJAH AND SERVED HIM FOR MANY YEARS IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD.

AND EVEN WHEN ELISHA KNEW THAT ELIJAH WAS TO BE TAKEN AWAY, HE WOULD NOT LEAVE THE PROPHET. INSTEAD HE FOLLOWED HIM TO THE BANKS OF THE JORDAN.

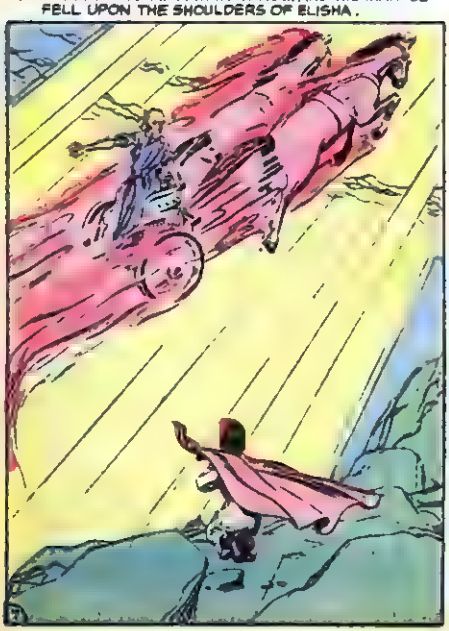


ELIJAH STRUCK THE WATER WITH HIS MANTLE AND THE WATERS WERE DIVIDED.

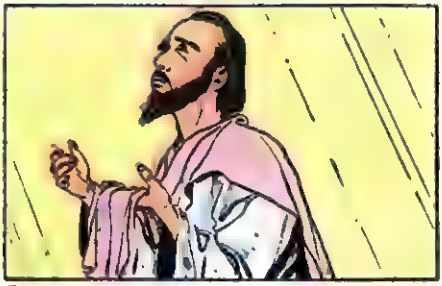


AS THEY PASSED OVER ON DRY LAND, ELISHA SAID: "IF YOU ARE TO BE TAKEN AWAY, LET YOUR SPIRIT BE WITH ME." ELIJAH ANSWERED: "IF YOU CAN SEE WHEN I AM TAKEN AWAY, IT SHALL BE SO. BUT IF NOT, IT SHALL NOT BE SO."

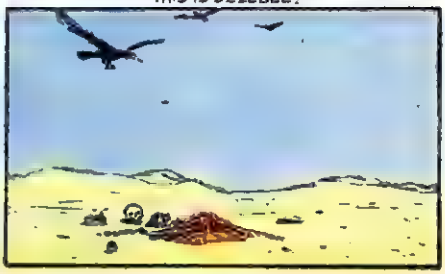
AND A CHARIOT AND HORSES OF FIRE CAME AND TOOK ELIJAH TO HEAVEN IN A WHIRLWIND... AND HIS MANTLE FELL UPON THE SHOULDERS OF ELISHA.



SO THE MANTLE OF THE LORD'S PROPHET PASSED FROM ELIJAH TO ELISHA.



BUT JEZEBEL, THE WICKED, WAS TRAMPLED TO DEATH BY THE HORSES OF HER ENEMIES AND HER BONES DRIED ON THE FACE OF THE LAND SO THAT NONE COULD SAY... "THIS IS JEZEBEL!"



The Temptation of Jesus

MATTHEW 4, 1-11
MARK 1, 12-13
LUKE 4, 1-13

AFTER JESUS WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST HE KNEW THE TIME HAD COME TO BEGIN HIS MISSION ON EARTH.

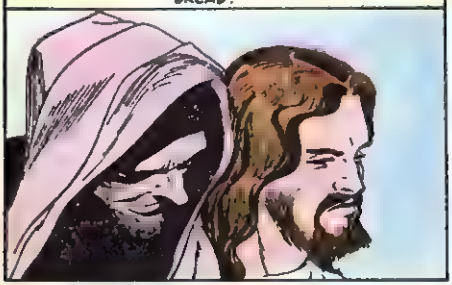
BUT WAS HE WORTHY OF THIS HOLY MISSION? THE TEST WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN AS THE HOLY GHOST SENT HIM INTO THE WILDERNESS

AND THERE HE FASTED FOR FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

HE HAD PASSED THE FIRST TEST AS HE CAME OUT OF THE WILDERNESS, TIRED AND HUNGRY

BUT THE WORK OF THE SON OF GOD ON EARTH WAS A GREAT TASK. HE WOULD HAVE TO PASS TRIAL AND TRIBULATION AND SUFFERING. JESUS HAD TO BE TESTED STILL FURTHER, BY *THE TEMPTER!*

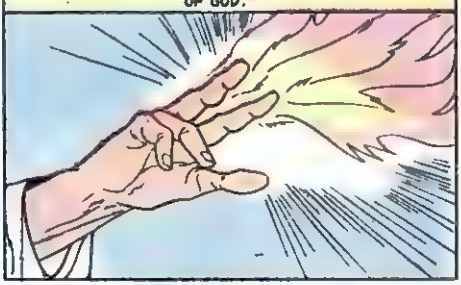
AND THE DEVIL TEMPTED JESUS. "IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD," HE WHISPERED, "TURN THESE STONES INTO BREAD."



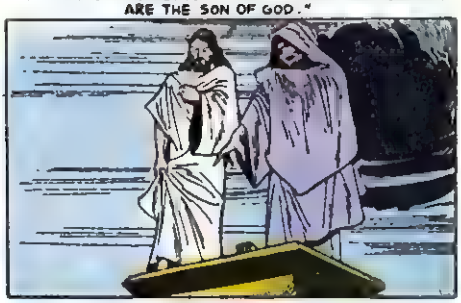
STILL THE DEVIL WOULD NOT GIVE UP IN HIS EFFORT TO TURN JESUS AWAY FROM HIS MISSION. HE TOOK THE NAZARENE INTO THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM AND SET HIM UP ON A PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE.

"ARE YOU HUNGRY?" ASKED THE DEVIL. "I HAVE FASTED FOR FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS," REPLIED JESUS.

BUT ALTHOUGH HE HUNGERED GREATLY, JESUS WOULD NOT BE TEMPTED TO OBEY SATAN, AND HE REPLIED: "MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY THE WORD OF GOD."



"THROW YOURSELF DOWN," ROARED SATAN. "IT IS WRITTEN THAT ANGELS WILL SAVE YOU AND BEAR YOU UP, IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD."

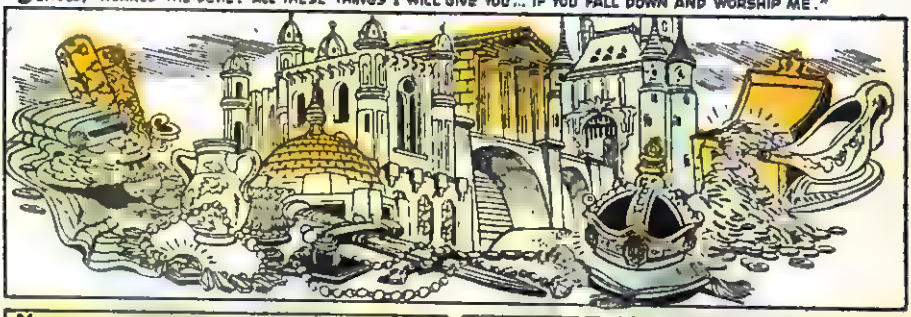


BUT JESUS REPLIED: "IT IS ALSO WRITTEN THAT YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD THY GOD."

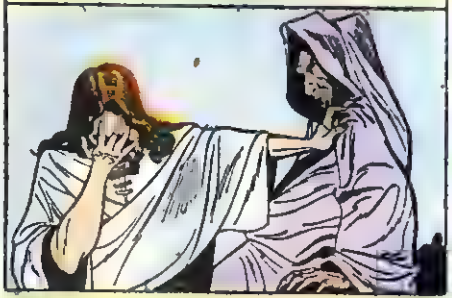
SATAN BURNED WITH FURY AT THE REPLIES OF JESUS. HE SAW THAT HE WAS FAILING, SO HE DECIDED TO OFFER JESUS THE GREATEST TEMPTATION IN ALL THE WORLD... ONE THAT HAD TURNED MANY A MORTAL FROM THE PATH OF GOD AND INTO THE WAYS OF EVIL. SO HE TOOK JESUS UP TO A HIGH MOUNTAIN.

THERE HE SHOWED JESUS ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD... AND ALL THE GLORIES THAT WERE IN THEM.

"BEHOLD," ROARED THE DEVIL. "ALL THESE THINGS I WILL GIVE YOU... IF YOU FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP ME."

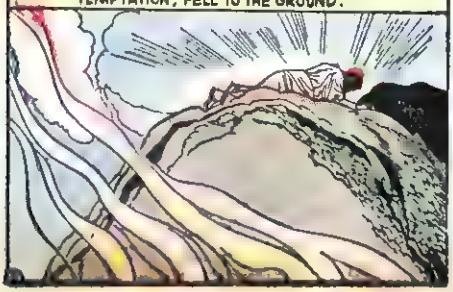


NONE HAD EVER REFUSED SUCH A PRIZE BEFORE, BUT JESUS SAID "GET THEE HENCE, SATAN."



"FOR IT IS WRITTEN YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD, AND ONLY HIM SHALL YOU SERVE."

SATAN COULD DO NO MORE. HE HAD FAILED. HE GAVE UP AND LEFT AS JESUS, WEAKENED BY HUNGER AND TEMPTATION, FELL TO THE GROUND.



BUT HE HAD RESISTED SATAN AND PROVED HIMSELF THE SON OF GOD AND READY FOR THE GREAT MISSION .. SO THE ANGELS OF THE LORD CAME DOWN AND TOOK CARE OF JESUS.

STANDING BEFORE THE VAST CROWDS THAT HAD COME TO LISTEN TO THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, JESUS TOLD THEM: "AND AFTER THIS MANNER YOU SHOULD PRAY..."

The Lord's Prayer

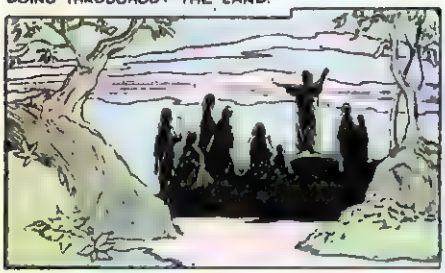
OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
THY KINGDOM COME.
THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH,
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,
AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL:
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER,
AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER.
AMEN.

Jerry Robinson

MATTHEW 5, 6, 7
LUKE 6, 20-49
LUKE 11, 2-4

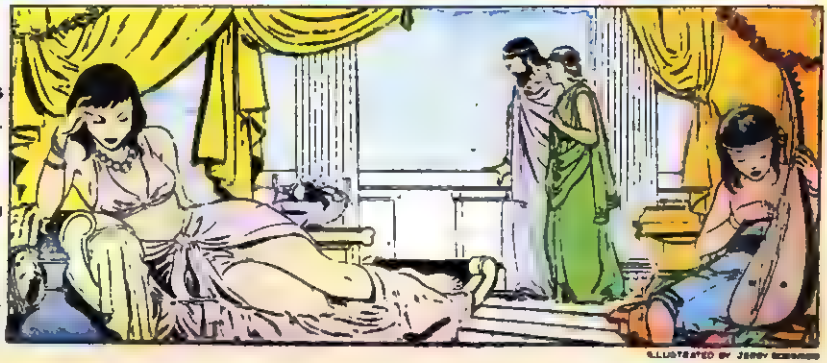
THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS, THE VOICE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, CRIED OUT AGAINST SIN AND WRONG-DOING THROUGHOUT THE LAND.



AND HIS VOICE REACHED INTO ALL CORNERS...INTO THE HOVELS OF THE POOR.

AND INTO THE MANSIONS OF THE MIGHTY... INTO THE PALACE OF THE EVIL TETRARCH HEROD, AND HIS SINFUL WIFE HERODIAS.



ILLUSTRATED BY JERRY [illegible]

And John cried out against evil in high places... against Herodias who had betrayed her rightful husband to marry his brother Herod

"This ragged prophet is your greatest enemy,' she whispered into Herod's ear. "He sets the people against you. Beware of him!"

"Bah," said Herod, "he is nothing... a dirty wanderer... an unkempt wayfarer! Why should I, the Tetrarch, beware of him?" But Herodias kept on with her venom

"Get rid of him," she urged, "and there will be nothing and no one left to challenge or question what you do!" "I am Herod!" cried the Tetrarch, "I am all-powerful! No one questions me!"

But she led him to the balcony. "Look!" she said, "and listen! Listen to the voice of the ragged prophet who dares to question a Tetrarch!"

"Evil dwells in the house of your ruler!" thundered the voice of John the Baptist.

"A woman of ambition has forsaken her husband and has married her brother-in-law! Woe be unto them! Woe!" And the words of John reached the ears of Herod and Herodias.

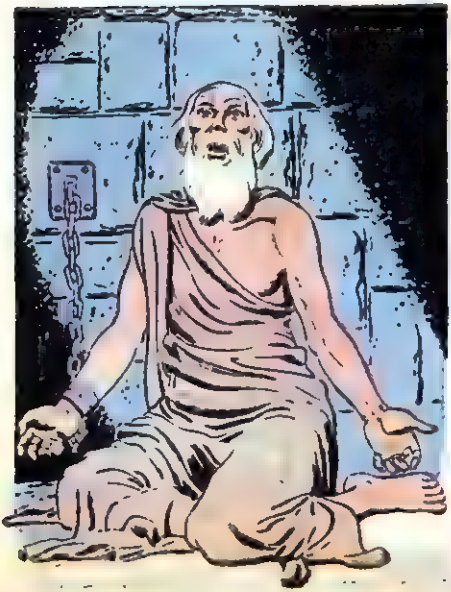
"Of whom does he speak, O Herod...your servants or of us?" asked Herodias. "You are right!" roared Herod.

So he sent soldiers to arrest John.

And the people cried out against the soldiers of Herod, for John had countless friends and followers who loved him.

But when Herodias saw that John was a prisoner and his voice stilled at last, she rejoiced with her daughter Salome.

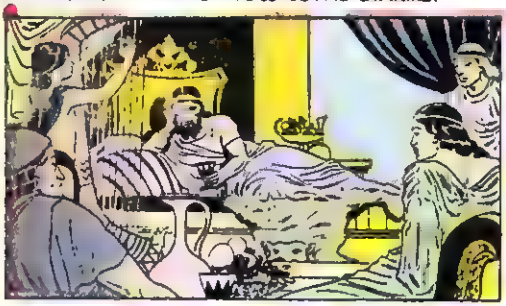
But from the depths of the dungeon, John's voice roared up to them "To all your other evils, O Herod, you add *THIS* my imprisonment!" cried the Baptist



"Silence him forever!" urged Herodias. "Behead him!" But Herod feared what the multitude would do if he killed John.

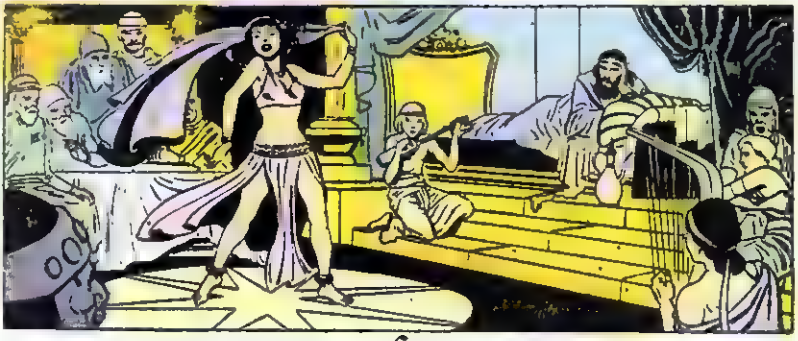
"We shall find a way," said Herodias to her daughter Salome, "our chance will come to make that old fool do as I wish!"

IT CAME TO PASS THAT AT THE TIME OF HEROD'S BIRTHDAY, HE GAVE A PARTY FOR HIS LORDS AND CAPTAINS.



"COME, SALOME!" CRIED HEROD TO HIS STEP-DAUGHTER. "DANCE FOR US!"

AND SALOME THE BEAUTIFUL DANCED FOR HEROD AND HIS GUESTS FOR A WHILE THE TETRARCH FORGOT HIS FEARS AND THE MEMORY OF THE PRISONER IN THE DUNGEON.



HEROD WAS PLEASED WITH SALOME'S DANCE. "ASK WHAT YOU WILL OF ME, SALOME," HE SAID. "HERE, BEFORE THOSE WHO SIT WITH ME, I GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT WHATEVER YOU WISH SHALL BE GRANTED TO YOU!"

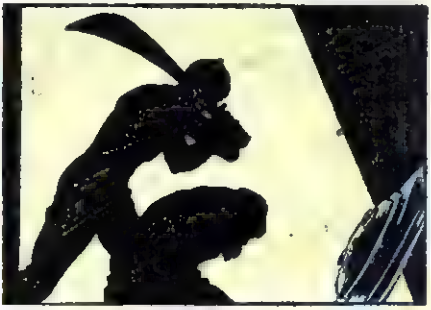
SALOME RUSHED TO HER MOTHER FOR ADVICE. "THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!" CRIED HERODIAS. "I SHALL TELL YOU WHAT TO ASK FOR..."

SALOME RETURNED TO HEROD. "I HOLD YOU TO YOUR WORD, O HEROD," SHE SAID, "AND HERE IS WHAT I ASK...THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST...BROUGHT TO ME ON A SILVER PLATTER!"

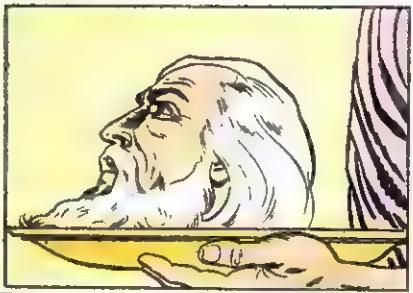
HEROD TREMBLED. THIS WAS THE ONE THING HE DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE, FOR FEAR OF THE FOLLOWERS OF JOHN. BUT HE HAD GIVEN HIS WORD BEFORE HIS GUESTS WHO WAITED FOR HIS ANSWER.

"DO NOT FEAR," SAID HERODIAS, "BEHEAD HIM AND YOUR GREATEST ENEMY WILL BE GONE FOREVER!" "SO BE IT!" SAID HEROD. "BEHEAD HIM!"

IN THE DARK OF NIGHT THE EXECUTIONER DID HIS WORK.



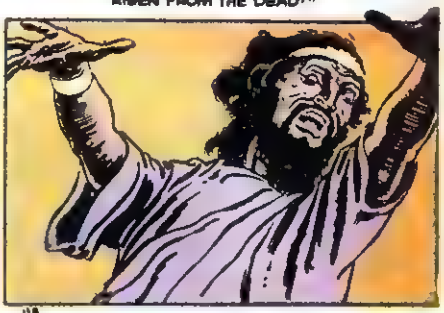
AND THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS BROUGHT TO SALOME ON A SILVER PLATTER.



"HE LIVES! HE LIVES!" CRIED HEROD. "SEE HIS EYES STILL BLAZE WITH ANGER! THEY LOOK UPON ME AND I CANNOT HIDE MY EVIL FROM THEM!" "THE TETRARCH HAS GONE MAD!" SAID HERODIAS.

THE WORD CAME TO HEROD OF A NEW PROPHET AND TEACHER WHOM THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED IN EVEN GREATER NUMBERS THAN THEY HAD JOHN.

"IT IS HE!" CRIED HEROD. "IT IS JOHN THE BAPTIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD!"

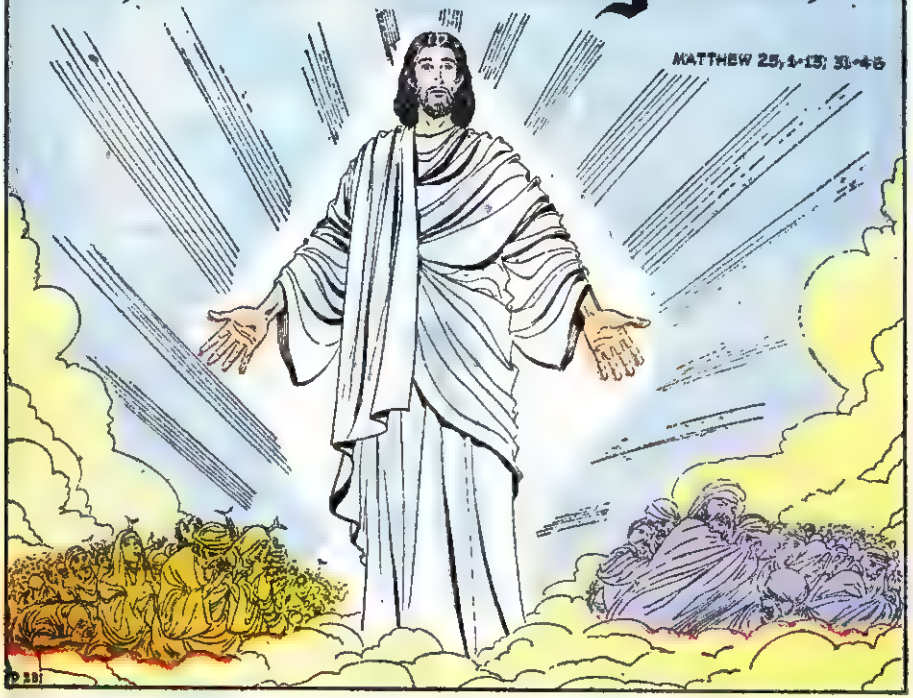


"I FEAR HE IS COMPLETELY MAD," SAID HERODIAS TO SALOME. "THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THIS 'NEW' TEACHER. HE IS NOT JOHN RISEN FROM THE DEAD!" "WHO IS HE?" ASKED SALOME.

"A CARPENTER'S SON FROM NAZARETH," SAID HERODIAS, "THEY CALL HIM JESUS!"

The Last Judgment

MATTHEW 25, 1-13; 31-46



JESUS PREACHED TO THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO HEAR OF THE MEANING OF THE COMING OF CHRIST. AND AMONG THESE WERE THOSE WHO HATED HIM. "TELL US WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN," THEY SNEERED.

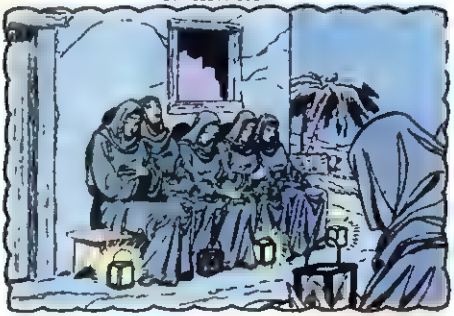
"HE SPEAKS IN PARABLES," SAID HIS ENEMIES. "SIMPLE LITTLE TALES THAT MEAN NOTHING."

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE TEN BRIDESMAIDS WHO WERE TO TAKE LAMPS AND GO OUT TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM WHEN HE ARRIVED," SAID JESUS.

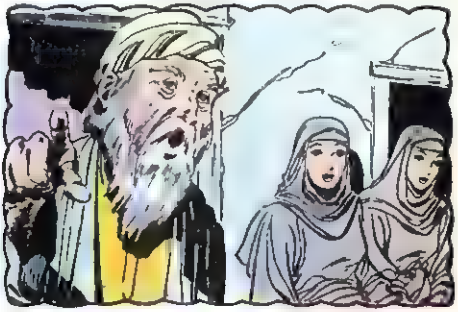
JESUS WENT ON: "AND FIVE OF THEM WERE WISE AND FIVE WERE FOOLISH. THOSE THAT WERE WISE HAD OIL FOR THEIR LAMPS, BUT THOSE THAT WERE FOOLISH HAD NONE."

ILLUSTRATED BY SYD SHORES

"But the bridegroom was late and as the maidens waited they fell asleep."



"And at midnight there was a cry: 'Behold, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.'"

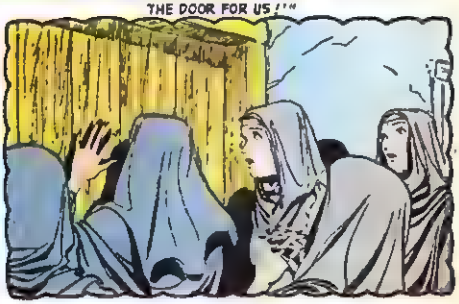


"The foolish ones asked the wise for oil, but the wise answered that they had none to spare."

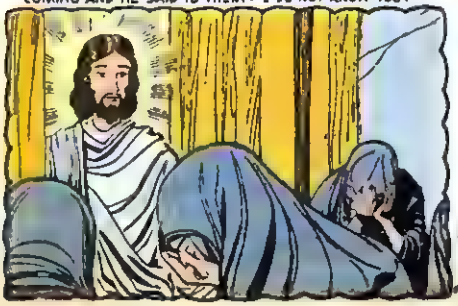
"So the foolish left to buy oil for their lamps."

"But the wise maidens that were ready for the bridegroom went out to meet him."

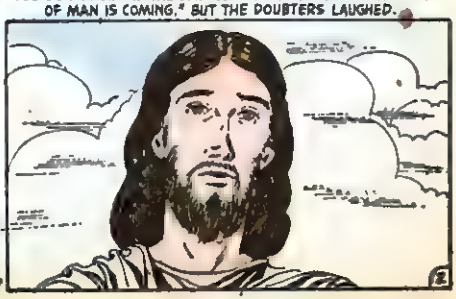
"When the foolish maidens returned, they found the door shut to them. 'Lord! Lord!' they cried. 'Open the door for us!'"



"But they were not prepared for the bridegroom's coming and he said to them. 'I do not know you.'"



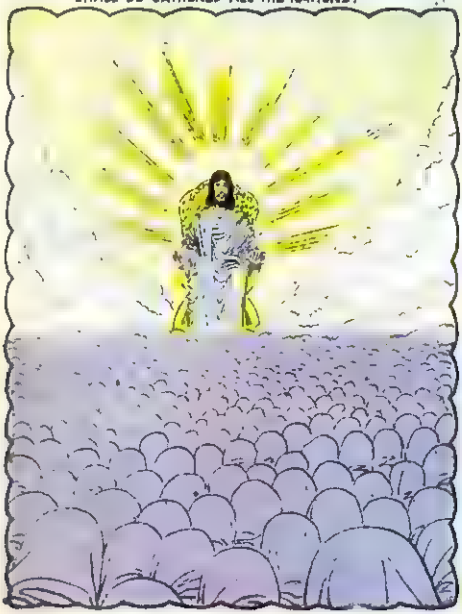
"So keep watch and be prepared," said Jesus, "for you do not know the day nor the hour when the son of man is coming." But the doubters laughed.



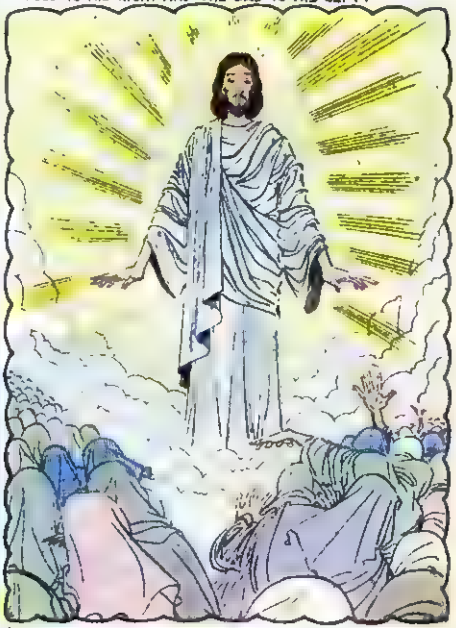
"AND WHERE SHALL YOU BE IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?" THEY LAUGHED.

"I SHALL TELL YOU," SAID JESUS. "LISTEN AND REMEMBER..."

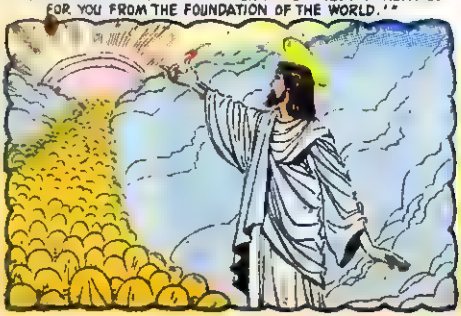
"WHEN THE SON OF MAN SHALL COME INTO HIS GLORY, HE SHALL SIT UPON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE AND BEFORE HIM SHALL BE GATHERED ALL THE NATIONS."



"AND HE SHALL SEPARATE ONE FROM THE OTHER... THE GOOD TO HIS RIGHT AND THE BAD TO HIS LEFT."



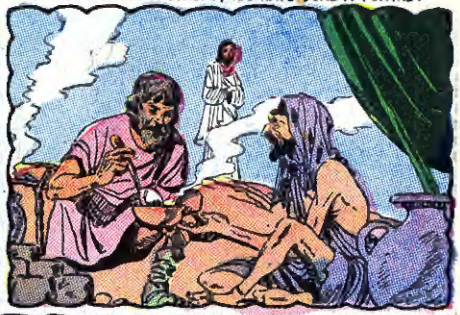
"HE SHALL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT. 'COME, YOU WHOM MY FATHER HAS BLESSED.. INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.'"



"FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD... THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK... A STRANGER AND YOU TOOK ME IN... I WAS NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME. SICK AND IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME.'"

"Then shall the righteous say: 'Lord, when did we do all these things for you?'"

"And the king shall answer: 'As you have done it for the least of my brothers, you have done it for me.'"

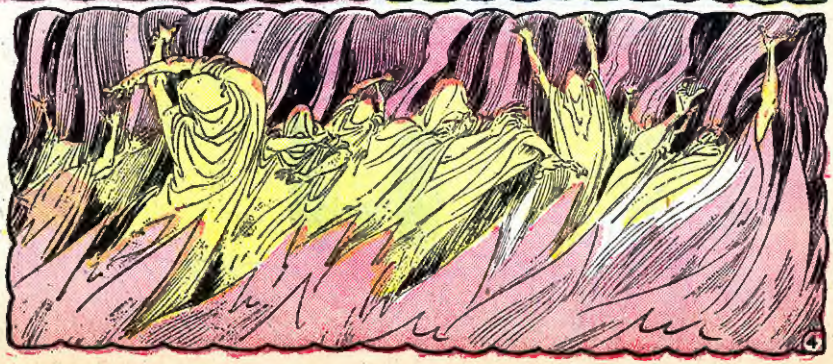


"Then shall he turn to those at his left hand and say: 'Depart from me, you who are cursed... and into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no meat... I was thirsty and you gave me no drink... I was a stranger and you did not take me in... naked and you did not clothe me... sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'"

"Then the cursed will ask: 'Lord, when did we refuse you all these things?'"

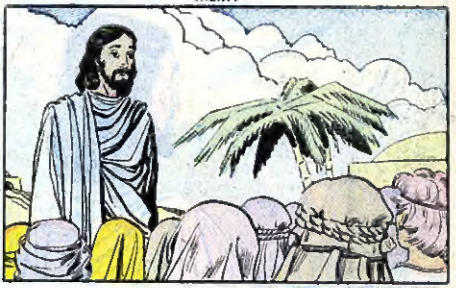
"Then shall the king answer: 'As you refused the least of my brothers, you refused me.'"

"Then shall these go away into everlasting punishment."



"But the righteous and good shall enter into life eternal."

Jesus stopped. His listeners were silent as they saw in their minds the vision unfold as he had told it to them.



And the faces of the good were bright with the light of the kingdom to come.

But the faces of the evil were dark with the threat of the punishment that awaited them.

So they stole away, their sneers and their laughter gone forever.

And Jesus went on with his works, preaching the salvation of man.

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